

cooperation both within the Government as well as between governmental and non-governmental agencies. In particular, this Policy has identified a number of areas of intervention including financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, education, welfare, protection of life and property etc. for the well being of older persons in the country. The Government have also constituted a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) to operationalise the Policy. The Government have set up a Secretariat for NCOP called AADHAR which is being coordinated by a Delhi based NGO called Age Well Foundation. Also, the Government have announced a long term Plan of Action (2000-05) for implementation of the provisions of the Policy which has been circulated to concerned Ministries and Departments of the Central Government and State Governments/UT Administrations.

(e) The AADHAR is in the process of establishing Zilla AADHARs, a net- work of volunteers in every district for the welfare of older persons. It is expected that this network of volunteers would help in expanding the number of old age homes in the country.

Restructuring the Public Sector Steel Plants

478. **SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:**
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action taken for restructuring the public sector steel plants to make them viable for global marketing; and

(b) the target set and amount likely to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Government have approved the financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) with a view to improve its competitiveness, which will also assist SAIL in marketing its products more effectively. A detailed MOU with specific milestones to implement the plan, within the agreed time frame, has been signed between Ministry of Steel and SAIL. Progress made in the implementation of various tasks of restructuring is reviewed periodically.

Main objective of the restructuring measures is to bring back SAIL on the path of profitability in 2-3 years time. There is no new major investment planned as part of the restructuring package of SAIL.